

December 1994 he told me that he had seen *P. antimachus* only rarely, and caught only one – under circumstances worth recording. He was driving back from Calabar to Ikom and stopped for mechanical reasons close to a bit of surviving primary forest. While he was tinkering with the car, a huge and perfect *P. antimachus* swooped down to investigate – quite possibly attracted by the impression of water given by the chrome bumpers of the car. With the unflappable calm born of a long career in the colonial service, he did the right thing, on the spot – he peed, just in front of the bumper. Four minutes later, the prize was in his net. I assume the car was eventually fixed as well!

One day I shall also bag my first *P. antimachus*. There are 3700 butterfly species in Africa, and 1400 of these are in West Africa. I am supposedly studying all of these in a scientific manner. Species new to science turn up at a low but steady rate. No foray into West Africa fails to turn up interesting new ecological and biogeographical information. So a single species, the distribution and ecology of which is well known and large as it is, should exert no particular attention. Sorry too much! Each time I enter one of the forests where I might encounter *P. antimachus*, that is foremost in my mind. Irrational? Yes! Do I mind? Not in the least!– TORBEN B. LARSEN, 358 Coldharbour Lane, London SW9 8PL.

***Agonopteryx curvipunctosa* (Haw.) (*zephyrella* (Hb.))
(Lep.: Oecophoridae) in Somerset, 1995**

On the night of 30 March/1 April 1995 my garden m.v. trap at Berrow, Somerset (VC 6) produced two Common Quakers *Orthosia cerasi* Fabr., two Hebrew Characters *O. gothica* D. & S., one Early Grey *Xylocampa areola* Esp., one *Epiphyas postvittana* Walker and an *Agonopteryx* species which was unfamiliar to me.

After consulting the *Illustrated Papers on British Microlepidoptera* (BENHS), I confidently pronounced it to be *Agonopteryx curvipunctosa*. As this was a new species for me I photographed it and decided to preserve it for future reference.

I thought little more of it until I sent my new records of micromoths to Col A.M. Emmet. His letter made me realise the significance of my find, provided I had made the correct identification. He suggested that Dr J.R. Langmaid would be interested in seeing the specimen or the photograph.

I eventually forwarded the specimen to Dr D.J.L. Agassiz who kindly forwarded it to Dr Langmaid who has confirmed my identification.

This appears to be the first recorded in Britain (excluding the Channel Islands) since Col Emmet found a specimen at Dartford, Kent in 1965.

I wish to thank the above-mentioned for all their help and guidance.– BRIAN E. SLADE, 40 Church House Road, Berrow, Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset TA8 2NQ.